

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Original) A hair conditioning composition with a pH of 8 or less comprising:

- (a) 0.01% to 10% by weight of one or more cationic surfactants;
- (b) 0.01% to 10% by weight of one or more fatty alcohols having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms;
- (c) 0.001% to 5% by weight of a hydrophobically modified clay; and
- (d) water,

wherein the weight ratio of cationic surfactant to fatty alcohol is from 1:1 to 1:10.

Claim 2 (Original) A composition as claimed in Claim 1, which further comprises one or more hair fibre modifying agents that are capable of reducing the stiffness of a hair fibre.

Claim 3 (Original) A composition as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the hair fibre modifying agents are selected from: mineral oils; functionalised oils comprising one or more groups selected from ether, ester, keto, aldehyde, carboxyl, alcohol, diol, polyol, amino, amido, thiol and thioether, and containing 8 to 44 carbon atoms; saccharide polyesters; silicone oils; and triglyceride oils.

Claim 4 (Original) A composition as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the hair fibre modifying agent is a hydrocarbon oil.

Claim 5 (Original) A composition as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the hair fibre modifying agents are selected from: amino acids; urea; methyl amines and their N-oxides; mono-, di- or poly-carboxylic acids; carbohydrates; and polyols.

Claim 6 (Original) A composition as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the hair fibre modifying agent is urea.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) A composition as claimed in any one of Claims 2 to 6claim 2, wherein the one or more hair fibre modifying agents are present in the composition in an amount of from 0.01% to 2% by weight.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) A composition as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 7claim 1, wherein the hydrophobically modified clay is an expandable three-layer clay comprising at least 75% by weight of the clay of atoms selected from oxygen, silicon and aluminum and/or magnesium.

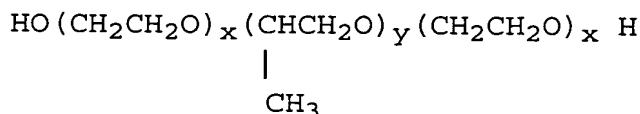
Claim 9 (Currently Amended) A composition as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 8claim 1, wherein the hydrophobically modified clay is a hydrophobically treated bentonite clay.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) A composition as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 9claim 1, wherein the clay is hydrophobically modified by exchange into the clay of cations comprising one or more alkyl groups containing from 6 to 30 carbon atoms.

Claim 11 (Original) A composition as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the cations have the formula  $N^+R^1R^2R^3R^4$  wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are independently ( $C_1$  to  $C_{30}$ ) alkyl or benzyl and, optionally, the alkyl groups may comprise one or more ester (-OCO- or -COO-) and/or ether (-O-) linkages within the alkyl chain.

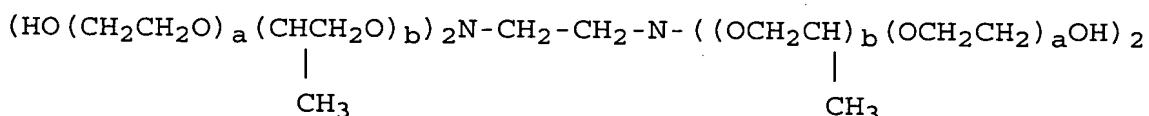
Claim 12 (Currently Amended) A composition as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 11claim 1 which further comprises from 0.01% to 5% by weight of a silicone.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) A composition as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~<sup>claim 1</sup> which further comprises a block copolymer with a mean molecular weight of 1000 unified atomic mass units or more, comprising polyethyleneoxide and polypropyleneoxide blocks, selected from the group consisting of (i) poloxamers according to formula I:



wherein the mean value of  $y$  is from 18 to 60 and the mean value  $x$  is from 7 to 140 such that the mean value of the ratio  $x/y$  is from 0.4 to 3.0.

and (ii) poloxamines according to formula II:



wherein the mean value of a is 2 or more and the mean value of b is 2 or more.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) A method of treating hair which comprises applying to the hair a composition of any one of Claims 1 to 13 claim 1.

Claim 15 (Original) Use of a hydrophobically modified clay for imparting conditioning benefits to hair.

Claim 16 (Original) Use as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the hydrophobically modified clay is a clay which is hydrophobically modified by exchange into the clay of cations comprising one or more alkyl groups containing from 6 to 30 carbon atoms.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) Use as claimed in Claim 15 or ~~Claim 16~~ wherein the hydrophobically modified clay is present in a rinse off hair conditioning composition.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended) Use as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 15 to 17~~claim 15, wherein the hydrophobically modified clay is used together with a hydrocarbon oil or urea.